IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A method of transferring incoming sound, comprising:
(a) storing the incoming sound in a buffer;
(b) monitoring one or more attributes of the incoming sound to produce indications of sound segment presence and effective sound absence based on the one or more attributes;
(c) transferring a predetermined interval of the sound in the buffer when the one or more sound attributes produce an indication of sound segment presence, the predetermined interval extending to a point in time when the indication is produced;
(d) transferring the sound following the indication; and
(e) terminating said step (d) when the one or more sound attributes produce an indication of effective sound absence.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 10, wherein the buffer is a FIFO buffer.

12. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the one or more sound attributes comprise sound intensity level, and wherein the monitoring produces an indication of sound segment presence when the sound intensity level exceeds a first threshold.

13. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the one or more sound attributes comprise sound intensity level, and wherein the monitoring produces an indication of effective sound absence when the sound intensity level is below a first threshold.

14. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the one or more sound attributes comprise sound intensity level, wherein the monitoring produces an indication of sound segment presence when the sound intensity level exceeds a first threshold, and wherein the monitoring produces an indication of effective sound absence when the sound intensity level is below a second threshold.

15. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the one or more sound attributes comprise sound intensity level, wherein the monitoring produces an indication of sound segment presence when the sound intensity level exceeds a first threshold, and wherein the monitoring produces an indication of effective sound absence when the sound intensity level is at or below the first threshold.

16. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring spectral power densities of the sound.

17. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring at least one moving average of the sound intensity level.

18. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein: said step (c) comprises recording the sound in the buffer on a recording medium when the monitoring produces an indication of sound segment presence; and said step (d) comprises recording the sound on the recording medium following the indication of sound segment presence.

19. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein: said step (c) comprises wirelessly transmitting the sound in the buffer when the monitoring produces an indication of sound segment presence; and said step (d) comprises wirelessly transmitting the sound following the indication of sound segment presence.

20. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 10, wherein: said step (c) comprises reproducing the sound in the buffer when the monitoring produces an

indication of sound segment presence; and said step (d) comprises reproducing the sound following the indication of sound segment presence.

21. (Previously Presented) A method of sound-activated transfer of incoming sound, the method comprising:

identifying non-overlapping segments of sound and effective sound absence within the incoming sound;

transferring the segments of sound;

determining a first plurality of intervals within the segments of effective sound absence, each interval immediately preceding one of the segments of sound, each interval being part of and associated with a segment of effective sound absence, the plurality of intervals comprising at least one interval shorter than a segment of effective sound absence associated with said at least one interval; and

transferring the first plurality of intervals.

22. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21, wherein each segment of effective sound absence located between two segments of sound comprises an interval of the first plurality of intervals.

23. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising: defining criteria for determining beginning of a segment of sound; and defining criteria for determining beginning of a segment of effective sound absence.

24. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21, wherein: said step of transferring the segments of sound comprises recording the segments of sound; and said step of transferring the first plurality of intervals comprises recording the first plurality of intervals.

25. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21, wherein: said step of transferring the segments of sound comprises transmitting the segments of sound; and said step of

transferring the first plurality of intervals comprises transmitting the first plurality of intervals.

26. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21, wherein: said step of transferring the segments of sound comprises audio reproducing the segments of sound; and said step of transferring the first plurality of intervals comprises audio reproducing the first plurality of intervals.

27. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising dynamically defining lengths of the intervals.

28. (Previously Presented) A sound recorder, comprising:
an input receiving digitized waveforms representing sound;
a memory storing a program;
a processor configured to execute the program; and
an interface to a recording medium, the interface being coupled to the processor; wherein
the processor, under control of the program, is configured to:
determine sound segments within the digitized waveforms;
cause the sound segments to be transferred through the interface to be recorded on the recording medium; and
causes a plurality of intervals of the digitized waveforms to be transferred through the interface to the recording medium, each interval immediately preceding one of the sound segments, at least one interval being shorter than time period between the sound segments immediately following and immediately preceding said at least one interval.

29. (Previously Presented) A sound recorder in accordance with claim 28, further comprising a microphone configured to receive the sound and generate analog waveforms corresponding to the sound, and an analog-to-digital converter coupled to the microphone and to the input, the analog-to-digital converter receive the analog waveforms and generate the digitized waveforms from the analog waveforms.

30. (Previously Presented) A sound recorder in accordance with claim 28, further comprising a buffer, wherein the processor is configured to cause the intervals to be stored in the buffer before the processor causes the intervals to be recorded on the recording medium.

31. (Original) A sound recorder in accordance with claim 30, wherein the buffer comprises a FIFO memory device.

32. (Previously Presented) A wireless communication device, comprising:

a microphone configured to receive sound waves and generate electrical waveforms corresponding to the sound waves;

a converter coupled to the microphone and configured to receive the electrical waveforms and convert the electrical waveforms into digitized representations of the sound waves;

a memory storing a program;

a processor;

wherein the processor is coupled to receive, from the converter, the digitized representations of the sound waves;

an antenna; and

a transmitter coupled to the antenna;

wherein the program is executable by the processor to :

(i) determine sound segments and effective silence periods within the digitized representations of the sound waves;

(ii) determine a plurality of intervals within the effective silence periods, each interval immediately preceding one of the sound segments, and cause the transmitter to transmit, via the antenna, the sound segments and the intervals, without transmitting portions of the effective silence periods that are outside of the intervals.

33. (Previously Presented) A wireless communication device in accordance with claim 32, further comprising a buffer, wherein the processor is configured to store the intervals in the buffer before the processor causes the transmitter to transmit the intervals.

34. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

storing a digital representation of incoming sound in a buffer;

monitoring one or more attributes of the incoming sound for the presence of a predetermined condition;

determining that the predetermined condition is detected;

responsive to said determining, transferring to a recording medium a digital representation of the incoming sound corresponding to a first time period beginning a predetermined length of time before the predetermined condition is detected and continuing until at least until the predetermined condition is detected; and

responsive to said determining, transferring to a recording medium a digital representation of the incoming sound corresponding to a second time period beginning when the predetermined condition is detected and continuing until the predetermined condition is no longer detected.

35. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the buffer is a FIFO (first-in, first-out) memory.

36. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the one or more attributes include sound intensity level, wherein the indication is produced when the sound intensity level exceeds a first threshold.

37. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the predetermined condition is based on spectral power densities of the incoming sound.

38. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the predetermined condition is based on at least one moving average of an intensity level of the incoming sound.

39. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein said transferring comprises converting the digital representation of the incoming sound into a format suitable for wireless transmission and subsequently transmitting the digital representation wirelessly to the recording medium.

40. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, further comprising reproducing the incoming sound, wherein said reproducing includes converting the digital representation of the incoming sound to analog audio signals and outputting the analog audio signals via a speaker.

41. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 34, wherein the digital representation of the incoming sound corresponding to the second time period is transferred to the recording medium from the buffer.

42. (Previously Presented) A method in accordance with claim 41, wherein the predetermined condition is detected by monitoring the digital representation of the incoming sound.

43. (Previously Presented) A recording device comprising:

a buffer configured to store a digital representation of incoming sound;

a first processing unit configured to monitor the incoming sound to detect the presence of a predetermined condition based on one or more attributes of the incoming sound; and

a second processing unit, wherein the second processing unit is configured, upon detection of the predetermined condition, to transfer, from the buffer to a recording medium, a digital representation of the incoming sound corresponding to a first time period beginning a predetermined length of time before the

predetermined condition is detected and continuing at least until the predetermined condition is detected;

wherein the recording device is configured to transfer, to the recording medium, a digital representation of the incoming sound corresponding to a second time period beginning when the predetermined condition is detected and continuing until the predetermined condition is no longer detected.

44. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, further comprising a conversion unit including a microphone and an analog-to-digital (A/D) converter, wherein the A/D converter is configured to:
receive analog sound signals from the microphone;
convert the analog sound signals into digital sound signals; and
store the digital sound signals in the buffer.

45. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the buffer is a FIFO (first-in, first-out) memory.

46. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the predetermined condition is satisfied when a sound intensity level of the incoming sound exceeds a predetermined threshold, and wherein the first processing unit is configured to detect when the sound intensity level exceeds a first threshold.

47. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the predetermined condition is based on spectral power densities of the incoming sound.

48. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the predetermined condition is based on at least one moving average of an intensity level of the incoming sound.

49. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the recording device includes the recording medium.

50. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the recording device includes:

an RF unit configured to convert the electrical representation of the incoming sound into a format suitable for transmission as electromagnetic signals; and

a transmitter coupled to the RF unit and configured to transmit the electromagnetic signals.

51. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the recording device includes:

a digital-to-analog (D/A) converter configured to receive and convert the electrical representation into analog signals; and

a speaker coupled to receive the analog signals from the D/A converter and to output the analog signals as audio signals.

52. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the digital representation of the incoming sound corresponding to the second time period is transferred to the recording medium from the buffer.

53. (Previously Presented) A recording device in accordance with claim 43, wherein the first processing unit is configured to detect the predetermined condition by monitoring the digital representation of the incoming sound.